



Connecticut General Assembly's Commission on Equity & Opportunity
18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Testimony from Werner Oyanadel, Senior Commission Analyst for the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) before the Insurance & Real Estate Committee ~ Thursday, March 2, 2017 in support of H.B. No. 7126 (Raised) "*An Act Concerning Transportation Network Companies.*"

Good morning Senators Larson, Kelly, and Rep. Scanlon and all honorable members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA). My name is Werner Oyanadel, Senior Commission Analyst for the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO). I am here today speak in support of Raised H.B. No. 7126 "An Act Concerning Transportation Network Companies."

For the record, and for those that may be watching this proceedings online or via CTN in Connecticut, the mission of the CEO is to inform and engage all policy makers about constituent needs for the African American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations in Connecticut. The General Assembly created it exactly for this purpose, which better ensures all lawmakers have all perspectives analyzed before they vote on legislation here in Hartford. We are a nonpartisan agency with a data driven, cross-cultural approach to policy innovation and our primary focus – again – is to recommend legislation that aims at eliminating disparities by creating opportunities, building connections and promoting social change.

CEO highly recommends passage of HB 7126, which aims at regulating the operations of and insurance requirements for transportation network companies in the State of Connecticut. We, at CEO, are particularly interested on this topic because the overwhelming majority of driver's and passengers are minorities. 38 states have already adopted comprehensive legislation similar to HB 7126, striking the right balance – in our opinion – between protecting consumers and supporting innovation. We are particularly supportive of the nondiscrimination clause on Sec. 2 (d) (1) of HB 7126 and at the macro level we note the positive economic impact this industry can bring to minority communities if the legislature supports this successful industry to its true potential. To better understand this topic I submit to you information obtained from Lyft, which for nearly a decade has been on a mission to improve people's lives with their network based transportation system. Lyft passengers, according to their 2017 Economic Impact Report, spent an additional \$750 million in local economies and their drivers have earned over \$1.5 billion for their families. Worth noting that passengers using this service saved over 26 million travel hours compared to alternate transportation models – time savings which is valued at over \$500 million.

It is within this context that I urge passage and welcome any questions you may have regarding this important matter to our agency.